

The “Drury Convention”

You hold the following hand in first (second) seat. **Q43 A75 KQ532 64** -- You “*Pass*” and Partner opens **1H** or **1S** in the third or fourth seat. : Without help, you have a choice of four, possibly disastrous responses without knowing the strength of Opener’s hand!

- 1 - You make a limit-raise to **3H** or **3S** and go down because Partner has opened light.
- 2 - You raise Partner’s opening bid, conservatively, to **2H** or **2S**. Partner passes, and you make 10 tricks because he/she had a full opening count.
- 3 - You bid **1-NT** (forcing or standard), Partner passes, and you get a poor score because the rest of the field is playing in their 8-card Heart or Spade fit.
- 4 - You try a “*temporizing*” **2D** bid, Partner then passes, and you get an even worse score.

The “Drury Convention” to the Rescue

The “*Drury Convention*” is designed to deal specifically with the above-referenced, problem scenario. The Drury Convention is an artificial “**2C**” (*Alertable*) response that’s used by a previously-passed hand in the first or second seat, following Partner’s **1H** or **1S** opening bid in third or fourth seat (Example 1). It shows trump support (3-card in Standard American) or better, and maximum playing values of 10-12 support points; i.e., just short of opening count. If Opener has a sub-minimum opening count, this convention allows the Partnership to terminate the bidding at the 2-level while, at the same time, exploring for game if, opposite Responder’s limit-raise holding, Opener actually had a full opening count, or better.

Example 1:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
P	P	1H/1S	P
“2C”			

In summary, a Drury “**2C**” response shows Responder’s support and strength right away, allowing Opener to bid his/her hand’s full value without getting too high. It gives one a built-in safety valve if Partner has opened light, while, at the same time, assisting Opener to evaluate the chances for game if one be present. Here is how it works:

Opener then makes one of two re-bids:

- (1) “**2D**” - This is artificial, and shows a light, sub-minimum opening count (Example 2),

Example 2:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
P	P	1H/1S	P
“2C”	P	“2D”	P
2H/2S			

Note: The “**2D**” artificial response may never be passed by the Drury bidder. If Opener exhibits a sub-minimum hand by responding the artificial “**2D**” bid, the Responder will then return to “*two*” of the Major suit referenced (**2H** or **2S**).

- (2) Or any other re-bid by Opener, other than “**2D**” confirms a full opening hand (or better) and shows game interest (Example 3).

Example 3:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
P	P	1H/1S	P
“2C”	P	<u>Any bid other than</u> “2D” (Shows a Full opening or better)	

With a good hand, say 15 or more HCP's, Opener may simply jump to game (4 of the Major suit). Other bids tend to be natural and descriptive, in effect game-going. With an excellent hand, opener may even be interested in a Slam, and will bid accordingly.

THE "REVERSE DRURY" CONVENTION

Definition: - A more modern version of the Drury convention in which a third- or fourth-position Opener of a Heart or Spade, in response to an artificial "2C" response by a previously-passed Partner (asking Opener to clarify the strength of his/her opening bid) responds as follows:

- a. Returns to his original Major suit with a sub-minimum opening count

AXXXX				
KX	P	P	1S	P
AXXX	"2C"	P	2S	
XX				(or)

- b. Any other bid is natural, and forward-going showing a full opening count

AKXXX				
KXXX	P	P	1S	P
AX	"2C"	P	2H	
XX				

THE TWO-WAY "REVERSE DRURY" CONVENTION

Definition: - Opener, who has previously passed, in response to Partner's third position opening bid of a Heart or a Spade, and holding Major suit support and invitational strength (11-12 HCP's or 8 Losers) has two ways to invoke "*Reverse Drury*":

- a. "2C" with 3-card support
 b. "2D" with 4-card support

(All other bids which follow are identical as in regular "*Reverse Drury*")

SUMMATION: The "Drury Convention" is immeasurably helpful in insuring that, subsequent to Partner's opening of 1H or 1S in 3rd or 4th seat, after Partner has previously passed with 10-12 HCP's in 1st or 2nd seat, respectively, that the Partnership does not either under-bid or over-bid their combined values.